



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10021

September 28, 1989

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Dr. Eugene Kennedy
Department of Biological Chemistry
Harvard Medical School
240 Longwood Avenue
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Dear Gene:

I am responding to your letter of September 11th requesting some assessment of the impact of the Pew Scholars Program on Biomedical Science.

I have been thrilled to hear the presentations of the Fellows at the annual meeting. They reflect an extraordinary level of sophistication and insight; and I have no doubt at all that this is the *crème de la crème* of the research going on today. It reflects a level of maturity and competence that transcends the relative youth of this group. The Scholars as a group are responsible for a positively disproportionate part of the most advanced work going on today.

Much more difficult to assess is what difference the Scholars Program has made to the Scholars' performance. We clearly have done a very good job in selecting the Scholars; and I can only go by their own testimony as to the additional difference that the financial support and the kudos of the Pew Scholarship have meant to them. They all report how important the Program has been to them, how it has enhanced their self-confidence and their willingness to take risks at a time when so much contemporary science tends to fall into secure and routine ruts. Their testimony is credible and I cannot think of any other methodology by which to separate the selective effects of having picked the very best, from the additional inductive ones of enhancing a performance that undoubtedly would have been very high under any circumstances.

All in all, I remain very deeply impressed by the entire Program and am quite confident that it is worth not only the financial investment lodged in it by the Pew Trusts but also the substantial time, energy and affection that our advisory group and the Program staff have poured into it.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg